

Several decades ago when I was little, I recall hearing about how Europeans had to pay a tax on their radio receivers. My dad was a ham, and I was aware that there were no taxes or restrictions on receivers in the US. We could tune around and listen to just anything anywhere. It was nice to live in a free country. There were of course rules on transmitting, and the listening rules made sense as well - you were responsible for any damage you did based on information received in private. You were not allowed to profit from private information you received.

Now we are facing a situation in which the regulatory climate increasingly tilts toward a centralized / authoritarian model in which some groups or individuals wish to have legal rights which ordinary citizens do not.

Paragraph 4.12 of this BPDG report apparently calls for just such a privelege model. Some to-be-determined group will have special priveleges that I will not, and the configuration of my home computer may now be in violation of this rule. Or, without leaving my home, and without possessing any malicious software (such as virus creation tools), I may become a felon by flipping a single bit in a data stream.